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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the message from the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Day (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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ANNEX

Message from the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Day, 20 May 1998

On the occasion of Africa Day, a major political event for the whole continent, I send my warmest and most sincere congratulations to the Heads of State and Government and to the peoples of Africa.

The Russian Federation holds in high regard its traditional bonds of friendship with Africa. We note with great satisfaction the increasing role that African States are playing in world affairs and their contribution to international economic integration and to strengthening the universal security system.

This year's festivities are particularly important in light of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which will be celebrated on 25 May. The efforts of this all-Africa forum to prevent and settle conflicts and ensure sustainable development and prosperity for the whole continent have gained recognition in the world. I cannot fail to mention the role of OAU in solving serious humanitarian problems and the fruitful results of its activities in the areas of regional integration and progress towards an African economic community.

We welcome the transformations in African countries aimed at strengthening the democratic foundations of political life. These are being implemented in light of national and historical experience and are founded on the age-old wisdom of the peoples of the continent. But at the same time, they reflect the universally recognized principles of contemporary society, respect for human rights and freedom of political choice.

Russians are alarmed by the ethnic conflicts, the humanitarian crises, the natural disasters, the diseases and the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people which persist in Africa. It is the Russian Federation's resolute intent to continue to play an active part in the international community's efforts to provide African countries with comprehensive assistance in overcoming these adverse phenomena and in solving their urgent problems.

I wish to stress that, for the Russian Federation, close bonds with Africa are not just a glorious page in history: they are a reality today. We are firmly determined to increase cooperation with the States of the African continent in the most diverse areas, from politics to economics and culture.

I am sure that this openness on the part of the Russian Federation will continue to be perceived by our African partners in a spirit of friendship, trust and respect and that it will be embodied in practical cooperation.

I wish the peoples of Africa happiness, prosperity and success on their road to all-round development, in the conviction that Africa will enter the twenty-first century stable and flourishing.

United Nations A/53/129 – E/1998/58

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

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28 May 1998

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General Assembly
Fifty-third session
Item 105 of the preliminary list*
International drug control

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 1998
Item 14 (d) of the provisional agenda**
Social and human rights questions: narcotic drugs

Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In resolution 48/112, the General Assembly requested that the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis. At its first regular session of 1995, the Administrative Committee on Coordination requested its Subcommittee on Drug Control to review, strengthen and render operational the System-Wide Action Plan. The new Plan was to be based on multi-agency sectoral and subsectoral plans of action, which would be incremental and eventually cover the whole scope of drug control concerns. The first version of the new Plan, comprising six such plans of action, was submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1996 (A/51/129-E/1996/53).

The present report contains background information, a status report on the first six plans of action, and two additional plans of action.

* A/53/50.
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Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Background	1–4	3
II.	Status	5–10	3
	A. First set of plans of action	5–7	3
	B. The process	8–9	4
	C. Second set of plans of action	10	4
III.	Additional plans of action	11–36	4
	A. Drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentencing	11–24	4
	B. Drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations	25–36	6

I. Background

1. The United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control was first mandated in 1989 by the General Assembly in resolution 44/141. In 1993, the General Assembly, in resolution 48/112, requested that the System-Wide Action Plan be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis and that the Commission on Narcotic drugs pay particular attention to reviewing the implementation and follow-up of the Plan. In subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called for the Plan to be strengthened and its presentation and usefulness improved.

2. In view of the difficulties encountered in efforts to develop a cohesive and useful plan over the years, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its first regular session of 1995, requested its Subcommittee on Drug Control to review, strengthen and render operational the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control through the elaboration of specific multi-agency sectoral and/or subsectoral plans of action for drug abuse control at the global, regional and subregional levels (ACC/1995/4). As a result, the ownership of the System-Wide Action Plan passed from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to the Subcommittee, thus making it a multi-agency exercise, and UNDCP, as the secretariat of the Subcommittee, was assigned the role of coordinating the elaboration of such plans of action and subsequent activities. The first version of the revised System-Wide Action Plan, which comprised six plans of action, was issued in 1996 in document A/51/129-E/1996/53.

3. In 1996, the Subcommittee subsequently identified four additional themes on which to elaborate plans of action and established the task forces to prepare them. Concern was expressed that the initial momentum might be diminishing, and it was stressed that the political will to make the System-Wide Action Plan work had to be fostered in all agencies. The Subcommittee also expressed concern that lack of adequate funding might hinder implementation of the plans included in the System-Wide Action Plan and agreed to update the existing plans to cater to fund-raising purposes. However, no action was subsequently taken to implement this decision.

4. Despite the enthusiasm with which the System-Wide Action Plan had been launched and acknowledgement that the process had itself contributed to enhancing inter-agency collaboration, by 1997 there was a consensus in the Subcommittee that, although the System-Wide Action Plan reflected the activities being carried out by the various agencies, it had little or no impact on such activities, and that it therefore needed to be made more operations-oriented. The Subcommittee therefore decided to review the applicability of the System-Wide Action Plan to field level operations, and requested UNDCP to carry out an external evaluation of the System-Wide Action Plan process in 1998.

II. Status

A. First set of plans of action

5. The six original plans of action were prepared within the agreed time-frame with the active involvement of 10 agencies. The themes covered were:

(a) Drug abuse prevention in the school environment;

(b) Drug abuse prevention among children and youth in especially difficult circumstances;

(c) Drug abuse prevention among rural youth;

(d) Drug abuse prevention in the workplace;

(e) Women and drug abuse: the gender dimension;

(f) Assessment of drug abuse: data collection.

6. A monitoring exercise concerning the implementation of these plans has been initiated, but results are as yet incomplete owing to a delay in the response from some agencies. However, a general overview shows that the objectives of the plans have remained constant. The descriptions of the problems to be addressed also continue to apply in essence, having been adapted in some cases only to reflect new trends and mandates. In fact, system-wide concurrence on problem analysis and objectives has been very useful in promoting joint activities and in attracting new agency partners. The cases of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) are noteworthy in this respect.

7. Activities for which funding had originally been available have for the most part either already been completed or are still ongoing. Status reports on those activities that have been deferred or cancelled indicate that this has mostly been due to a lack of resources. In only some cases have other reasons, such as civil unrest in a given country or the subsuming of activities into others, been given.

B. The process

8. While the dedication of some agencies to the principles of inter-agency collaboration has been manifested through the process of elaborating the new System-Wide Action Plan to date, it is also clear that the lack of participation by potential key agencies in both the Subcommittee and the System-Wide Action Plan has significantly reduced the system-wide nature of the exercise and the product. It is recognized that there are inherent difficulties in trying to link disparate planning tools and approval and practices in different entities. It would also appear that, despite the increasing priority being assigned to inter-agency coordination by the intergovernmental bodies, the same level of priority is not reflected in the level of resources available for these activities.

9. As mentioned in paragraph 4 above, in view of perceived inadequacies in the System-Wide Action Plan, the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control requested UNDCP to undertake an external evaluation of the process in 1998. The results of the evaluation will be submitted to the Subcommittee at its sixth session, which is to be held in September 1998. A strategy for the future direction of the System-Wide Action Plan will then be elaborated, also taking into account the implications of the ongoing reform of the United Nations system, the priorities of Member States and the level of resources available for the exercise.

C. Second set of plans of action

10. The following two additional plans of action have been prepared since the previous report was submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (A/51/129-E/1996/53) and are to be seen as an integral part of the System-Wide Action Plan, together with the previous six:

(a) Drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentencing;

(b) Drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations.

III. Additional plans of action

A. Drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentencing

11. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) (formerly the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division) of the United Nations Secretariat acted jointly as task force manager in the preparation of the plan of action on drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentencing, in collaboration with UNDCP and the World Health Organization (WHO).

1. Statement of the problem

12. For many years, the international community has been debating the complex relationship between drug abuse and criminal behaviour and the ways of reducing, if not eliminating, negative consequences. Policy makers, scientists and researchers have identified different aspects of the problem: socio-economic factors (e.g., illegal market production, national and international trafficking, organized crime); systemic behaviour (e.g., lifestyles and violent behaviour of the addicts); and psychopharmacological effects of the drugs (e.g., aggressiveness, paranoia). In addition to drug law offences, a series of common crimes, both against the person and against property, are committed as direct or indirect consequences of drug abuse and trafficking.

13. The criminal justice system (police, prosecution, courts and correctional system) has to identify, prosecute, punish and rehabilitate:

(a) Drug users who commit minor drug law offences (usually possession and sale of small quantities of an illicit substance);

(b) Drug users who commit common offences, usually because of psychoactive effects of drugs (e.g., predatory crimes, violent crimes, traffic offences);

(c) Drug users who commit offences such as theft in order to support their drug habit;

(d) Offenders who are involved in the production, smuggling and distribution of drugs at a low level;

(e) Offenders who commit major drug law offences (e.g., control of manufacture, smuggling) and, in most cases, other crimes (e.g., violent crimes, financial crimes, such as money laundering, corruption) in order to safeguard their trafficking networks and their assets.

14. In considering the sentences for these different offenders, the principle that the sanction must be commensurate with the seriousness of the crime should be emphasized. Types of sentences and correctional treatment vary from country to country, even in the same region, as well as according to the type of offence committed and the health condition of the offender (drug user of abstinent). In

many countries, the reaction against the continuous growth in the illicit drug market has resulted in the stiffening of penalties for drug selling and possession, including imprisonment. The ever-increasing number of persons arrested for drug offences and drug-related offences has led to an overloading of many criminal justice systems, resulting in congestion and delay of all types of cases. The problem is even more serious in countries where the practice is to remand those charged with drug offences in custody and/or impose prison sentences for minor drug offences. In many cases, these practices have been leading to prison overcrowding.

15. Greater use of treatment and alternative sentences for minor offenders would ease the burden placed upon the criminal justice system and possibly result in more effective administration of justice and allow often scarce resources to be devoted to preventing and controlling major drug trafficking. Treatment should also be available for serious offenders in conjunction with custodial sentences. Drug abusing offenders who have committed petty crimes may be subjected to diversion schemes or sentenced to alternative convictions (e.g., probation, community service orders) that often include a treatment programme. The comparison between the effectiveness of compulsory and voluntary treatment has been the subject of several evaluation studies and is still a matter of sometimes bitter debate. When considering treatment and rehabilitation, Governments need to balance a number of considerations, including law enforcement goals, the treatment needs of the offenders and other humanitarian requirements, and the protection of the human rights of both the offenders and the victims and the members of the community.

16. A particularly frightening phenomenon is the increasing number of juveniles, in several cases pre-adolescent children, particularly from inner cities, who are involved with criminal groups in the sale of illicit drugs. Specific strategies for their rehabilitation and social reintegration should be devised. Special attention should also be paid to the specific needs of female drug users and dealers.

17. As mentioned above, in the case of imprisonment, drug-abusing and drug-law offenders represent a large percentage of many prison populations (figures vary greatly, ranging from 5 to 90 per cent, as reported by Member States to UNDCP). Penitentiary systems are faced with a huge range of problems which go far beyond the already dramatic prison overcrowding. The presence of major drug offenders linked to criminal organizations requires measures of maximum security and poses a threat to the well-being of other inmates, as well as possibly generating risks of corruption among the correctional personnel. Occasional and small-scale couriers and sellers are often foreigners – in some cases, clandestine immigrants – with deeply different cultural, religious and social backgrounds from the national inmates. The prison system faces new challenges to meet their needs and avoid the risk of discrimination and abuse by other prisoners and even prison staff. Further, drug-abusing inmates need health treatment and rehabilitation provided by specialized personnel. In some cases, special sections have been created within the correctional facilities, while, in other cases, drug-abusing inmates live with other prisoners. Again, the special needs of juveniles and females, such as separate accommodation, should be borne in mind.

18. Specific programmes may include drug detoxification or maintenance programmes, counselling, group therapy and occupational therapy. In addition to drug treatment, drug-abusing inmates require specific pre-release psychological and vocational programmes. Their reintegration into society is hindered by the double labelling of ex-offender and ex-drug addict, as well as by the objective loss of life skills and educational and professional abilities linked to drug dependence. Moreover, many of these inmates serve short sentences and cannot complete an effective treatment programme. There is a need for post-release assistance programmes, in order to guarantee their rehabilitation and support their social reintegration.

19. The penitentiary systems face two other serious problems linked to the presence of drug-abusing inmates:

(a) The abuse of drugs, particularly intravenous abuse, within prisons. Drugs reach the inmates by various means (manufactured in the facilities, handed over by visitors or by corrupt staff);

(b) The risk of transmission of the HIV/AIDS infection. Intravenous drug users constitute a group at high risk and their presence in a correctional setting requires close monitoring of their health and the health of other inmates who live in contact with them.

20. Finally, depending on relevant criminal provisions, inmates may try to conceal their addiction or, on the contrary, feign addition. Many countries adopt compulsory drug testing policies, others consider compulsory testing an infringement of the rights of inmates. Correctional systems need comprehensive and flexible policies to respond to the challenge of guaranteeing the internal security and well-being of general prison populations as well as providing special populations with the appropriate treatment, while respecting the rights of inmates. Correctional personnel must be trained in the management of drug-abusing offenders and supported in resisting threats and corruption.

21. The scope and dimension of the issue requires a global response from the United Nations system through various means of action:

(a) Collection and analysis of data;

(b) Preparation of guidelines for correctional systems;

(c) Elaboration of resource materials for correctional intervention strategies and programmes;

(d) Design and implementation of model training programmes targeted at correctional personnel;

(e) Design and implementation of model programmes for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug-abusing offenders and drug-law offenders;

(f) Design and implementation of primary prevention programmes targeted at general prison populations;

(g) Provision of technical advisory services;

(h) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the programmes.

22. The United Nations can also facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters, including by assisting in the transfer of prisoners to their country of origin to facilitate the prosecution of drug traffickers, the transfer of criminal proceedings, and other forms of mutual assistance which enhance joint efforts against drug trafficking, such as joint efforts to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug-related crime.

2. Objectives

23. The rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug offenders and drug-abusing offenders is a fundamental tool in the prevention and control of illicit drug abuse and traffic. The increasingly critical conditions of many correctional systems in terms of overcrowding, internal security and risks to the health of inmates produce heavy consequences in economic, social and health terms that affect the entire community. The United Nations system must establish a number of interrelated activities aimed at developing strategic alliances with the maximum number of Member States and other organizations and reaching the following main objectives:

(a) To provide advice on legislation enacting an appropriate range of penalties for drug offences and drug-related offences of varying degrees of seriousness;

(b) To plan and implement appropriate policies for the sentencing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-abusing offenders;

(c) To plan and implement appropriate policies and programmes for the professional qualification of correctional personnel charged with the management and treatment of the various profiles of drug offenders and drug-abusing offenders;

(d) To plan and implement appropriate policies and programmes for the social reintegration of ex-drug offenders and ex-drug-abusing offenders.

24. The United Nations system is currently involved in only a few programmes related to this problem; consideration should be given by both United Nations bodies and Member States to the need to increase action in this area.

B. Drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations

25. UNDCP acted as task force manager for the preparation of the plan of action on drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations, in collaboration with the then Department for Development Support and Management Services (now part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) of the Secretariat.

1. Statement of the issue or problem to be addressed

(a) Inter-agency environment

26. Apart from the general thrust of United Nations priorities in peacekeeping and peacemaking, a number of initiatives have recently been aiming at post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation. For the United Nations system as a whole, study on the role of the United Nations system in post-conflict recovery, carried out by the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ), is perhaps the most relevant. The need for multisectoral joint planning and programming is highlighted, and the elaboration of an integrated framework strategy is recommended for fund-raising purposes as well as for operational activities. The study is conclusive in terms of inter-agency cooperation, insisting that it go beyond the United Nations system and include national authorities, non-governmental organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions and donors.

27. A conclusion reached by an international colloquium on post-conflict reconstruction strategies, held in June 1995, was that integration of action rather than coordination in its traditional sense must be the overriding aim of all concerned. In order to enhance the system's capability to operationalize the relief-to-development continuum, CCPOQ also recognized the need to identify the system's capacity, comparative advantage and division of labour among relief and development partners.

28. The subject of post-conflict recovery, including the impact of armed conflict on children, was on the agenda of the first regular session of 1997 of ACC. The CCPOQ study mentioned above provided ACC with the following agreed fundamental principles for United Nations system action in post-conflict recovery:

(a) That the overarching goal is incremental improvement in the conditions of suffering human beings, bearing in mind the need for rapid, immediate and significant action in certain cases;

(b) That domestic commitment, fiscal and non-fiscal resources hold primacy of place in crisis responses, but should not be an excuse for lack of international support;

(c) That political negotiations must embrace economic and social considerations that build confidence at local and national levels;

(d) That foundations for reconciliation include a national consensus on accounting for past actions, a functioning justice system and adequate international monitoring;

(e) That protection of human rights, land, property and investment derive from a legal framework and an adequate security system;

(f) That building capacity at the local, community and national levels will reap huge future benefits;

(g) That a secure environment is unlikely to be created without disarmament efforts that are linked to job creation;

(h) That reintegration is entirely dependent on the availability of basic services and productive opportunities and attention to issues of reconciliation and resolution of conflict; and that strategies that save lives must be harmonized with strategies that build and protect livelihoods.

29. CCPOQ also agreed on the necessity of formulating jointly four generic products for effective crisis response:

(a) The political negotiating strategy that should be based on the effect of the crisis on the suffering of human beings and include agreement on objectives for governance, participation, the rule of law and the economic and social prospects of reconciliation and recovery;

(b) The analysis of the in-country environment that should present an examination of the principal characteristics of the prevailing environment from the collective perspective of in-country international partners;

(c) The strategic framework that should present collective quantitative and qualitative understandings of problems and set the economic and social context for establishing priorities and making choices based on the country's potential to stand on its own, thereby creating a vision of future prospects;

(d) The response programme that should bring harmony to the planning, programming, financing and implementation processes in all interventions, thereby providing a joint work programme that integrates predictable domestic, fiscal, non-fiscal and other resources with catalytic external financial and other technical assistance support.

30. The plan of action on drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations should be seen as part of the above context, feeding both into it and from it, insofar as drug control issues are concerned. While the importance of a totally integrated approach is recognized, it goes beyond the scope of this exercise to include other agencies or organizations outside the United Nations system, unless they are included as partners in individual activities.

(b) Drug control

31. Even at the pre-conflict stage, evidence of drug abuse or trafficking can provide an early warning signal. If these signals continue to be valid when the conflict erupts, it can be assumed that drugs are implicated within the conflict situation. In such a situation, it is therefore a priority to address the drug issue immediately. Where possible, parties to conflicts should be requested to comply with the international drug control conventions, especially with regard to drug abuse and trafficking.

32. In situations of conflict, the state of emergency tends to dictate the response of the international community. Armed conflicts, especially if prolonged, thoroughly disrupt the social fabric: livelihoods, families and communities, infrastructures, institutions and services. With these components of life no longer existent, despair can easily set it. Children and young people are especially vulnerable to drug abuse under such circumstances. In cases where conflict has long been part of daily life and where it is possible to obtain drugs, many people become dependent on

tranquillizers and cannot function without them. Combatants are under pressure and may take, or even be administered, psychoactive drugs in order to boost their fighting spirit or enable them to endure their role. Again, this is particularly so in the case of young and child soldiers.

33. The end of the conflict, by whatever means, constitutes a hiatus for most of those concerned. On the personal side, the traumatic experiences of the recent past coupled with the search for a new at least personal, if not social, ethnic or cultural, identity can easily contribute to drug abuse by both the civilian population and demobilized soldiers. The treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers should therefore be integrated into reconstruction programmes where required.

34. Disrupted social and economic conditions also lead to a potential growth in crime, including drug trafficking. National institutions, if functioning at all, are usually too weak to cope with such situations, which can escalate at an alarming pace if ignored. Conflict situations are particularly conducive to smuggling, which may be carried out by organized criminals. Resulting black market trading can undermine reconstruction and even intimidate authorities into corruption. Neither is it unusual for at least one of the parties involved to be financing the conflict through drug money. This can lead to national economic dependence on such financing, which is difficult to redress once peace has been restored – if peace can be restored under such circumstances. Furthermore, reliance on drug money during conflict situations creates a changed ethic which, once peace returns, may well continue in the form of corruption. In certain circumstances, assistance might be conditional on compliance with the international drug treaties. This would be determined on a case-by-case basis, especially as regards illicit cultivation.

35. Unless drug control is part and parcel of post-conflict efforts towards rehabilitation and reconstruction, a major obstacle to such efforts is overlooked and this obstacle will impede progress in the development of political, economic and social stability. It is therefore essential that real and potential drug-control problems be investigated as a matter of routine in any conflict or post-conflict situation which is being addressed by the United Nations system.

2. Objectives

36. The objectives identified are as follows:

(a) To develop a knowledge base and information on best practices in order to provide a basic schema for input to international programmes;

(b) To put drug control firmly on the agendas of relief and reconstruction agencies, sensitizing them to recognize danger signals regarding drug abuse and trafficking;

(c) To encourage partnerships between the United Nations system and other relief and development agencies, non-governmental organizations, the international financial institutions and, in the post-conflict situation, the private sector;

(d) To channel technical cooperation, at the earliest possible stage, towards national capacity-building to counter the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, trafficking and drug abuse. This would include the provision of legislative assistance, alternative development measures and law enforcement training, and the development of appropriate prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Items 18 and 90 of the preliminary list*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including that resolution, since the circulation of his previous report.

2. In a letter dated 30 March 1998, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of the resolution to the executive heads of the following specialized agencies and international institutions forming part of or associated with the United Nations and invited them to submit the information requested for inclusion in the report referred to in the above paragraph:

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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World Food Programme (WFP)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Bank

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

League of Arab States (LAS)

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Organization of American States (OAS)

South Pacific Forum

3. Summaries of the replies received from the international organizations concerned in response to the above-mentioned letter will be given in document E/1998/59.

4. Summaries of additional replies received, together with such further information as may become available on relevant activities undertaken by the organizations concerned during the year, will be circulated in addenda to the present report.

5. In addition, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of the resolution to the various departments and other units of the Secretariat. Information received in that regard will also be circulated in addenda to the present report.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 10, 112, 113 and 157
of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit copies of the following three resolutions adopted by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council on 21 March 1998:

(a) A resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir issue (see annex I);

(b) A resolution on Indian violations of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir (see annex II);

(c) A resolution on Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan (see annex III).

It is requested that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly, under items 10, 112, 113 and 157 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX I

Resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir issue

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council upholding the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Jammu and Kashmir, in particular the Declaration of the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Islamabad on 23 March 1997 and the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997,

Recalling further that the United Nations Security Council had declared that the creation of a Constituent Assembly or the holding of any elections in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian Government cannot be a substitute for a free and impartial plebiscite mandated by the Security Council to determine the will of the people of Kashmir,

1. Strongly condemns the brutal use of force by the Indian armed forces in occupied Kashmir, which have claimed the lives of 60,000 Kashmiri men, women and children, the rape of thousands of women and the unlawful detention of tens of thousands of political prisoners and other tactics used by the Indian Government to suppress the indigenous struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to secure their right to self-determination;

2. Also strongly condemns the inhuman crimes of genocide, massacres, extrajudicial and custodial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, the use of rape as an instrument of suppression, the burning of houses, villages and townships, and the destruction and desecration of holy places committed by the Indian Government through its military and paramilitary personnel, renegades and mercenaries in occupied Kashmir during the past eight years;

3. Affirms that any political process or elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute for the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir as enshrined in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;

4. Calls for the immediate holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council to enable the people to decide their future;

5. Calls upon India to withdraw its forces from Indian-held Kashmir and to put an immediate end to the massive violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people;

6. Expresses support for the rejection by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the true representatives of the Kashmiri people, of the farcical political process and the puppet government installed in occupied Kashmir;

7. Pays homage to the thousands of Kashmiri martyrs who have laid down their lives for their just cause and expresses total solidarity with all Kashmiri families who have lost their loved ones in the cause of freedom;

8. Fully supports the efforts of the Government of Pakistan for a peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute based on the wishes of its people, through all possible means, including a substantive and meaningful dialogue with India;

9. Expresses its appreciation to Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for their steadfast support for the just cause of the Kashmiri people.

ANNEX II

Resolution on violations of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council,

Deeply concerned at the alarming increase in the number of unprcvoked violations of the line of control by the Indian armed forces, which have become a regular feature along the line of control,

Conscious that unprovoked violations by Indian armed forces along the line of control further exacerbate tensions and instability in the region,

1. Strongly condemns the indiscriminate firing by the Indian army at the innocent civilian population residing inside Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which has resulted in a large number of civilian casualties;

2. Calls for an immediate end to violations of the line of control by Indian armed forces;

3. Calls upon India to allow the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to discharge its function of monitoring the line of control on both sides and in this regard urges the United Nations to increase the number of military observers deployed by the Observer Group;

4. Urges the international community, and in particular the United Nations, to persuade India to respect international commitments and to cease violations of the line of control forthwith;

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to Azad Jammu and Kashmir to make an on-the-spot assessment of the losses caused by continuous violations of the line of control by the Indian armed forces.

ANNEX III

Resolution on Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council,

Recalling the recent spate of Indian-sponsored terrorist acts in Pakistan involving the bombings of a court in Sukkur and trains in Pattoki and Lahore,

Alarmed at the continuation of such terrorist activities by India against targets in Pakistan for the purpose of diverting the attention of the world from its repression in Kashmir as well as the attention of the Indian public from internal instability,

Reiterating the commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Also reiterating its call for observance of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international norms proscribing international terrorism,

Affirming the determination to combat Indian subversion and terrorism directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, stability and security of Pakistan,

1. Strongly condemns Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan, which has led to the tragic loss of innocent lives and damage to property;

2. Calls upon the world community of nations to condemn those terrorist acts;

3. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council to prevail upon and persuade the Government of India to desist from spreading terrorism in Pakistan.

UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 72 and 80 of the preliminary list*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the attached statement issued on 28 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in reaction to the nuclear testing conducted by Pakistan on 28 May 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 72 and 80 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
issued at Kiev on 28 May 1998

It is the second time during the current month that the hopes of mankind for the non-nuclear world have been seriously challenged. Despite numerous appeals from the world community to refrain from taking steps in response to India's nuclear explosions, Pakistan has conducted its own nuclear tests. Therefore, the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been violated, and a dangerous basis for further proliferation of nuclear weapons on the globe has been created.

As was the case with India, Ukraine condemns this step of Pakistan and calls upon both countries to observe restraint and responsibility in their bilateral relations that will meet the interests of preserving peace and stability in South Asia and in the whole world.

The actions of the two countries have also demonstrated the inefficiency of the existing non-proliferation control mechanisms and the pressing need for their urgent and cardinal improvement. In view of the emergency situation that exists in the South Asia region, Ukraine deems it necessary to consider, as a matter of urgency, the issue of convening a meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

United Nations A/53/133

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Item 117 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

Report of the Secretary-General

1. This report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to propose revisions to the Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, taking into account the views expressed by Member States thereon.

2. The Regulations of the United Nations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation were adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982. The corresponding Rules were formulated by the Secretary-General. The Regulations were subsequently amended by the Assembly in section I of its resolution 42/215, to reflect the new budget process established in resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

3. The revisions proposed to the Regulations relate in the main to those governing the medium-term plan. They derive from the need to adapt the Regulations to reflect the new format of the medium-term plan. The General Assembly in section I of its resolution 47/214 had requested that a prototype of a possible new format for the medium-term plan be drafted. The prototype was submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/49/301 and was reviewed and discussed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and its thirty-fourth session and by the Assembly at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions.

* A/53/50.

98-15179 (E) 040698

4. Revisions are also being proposed to the Regulations to bring them in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, by which the Office of Internal Oversight Services and current practice were established.

5. Experience gained in the implementation of the Regulations has proven in some cases that the original Regulations did not serve the purpose for which they were designed.

6. The text that follows in the annex indicates each existing regulation, provides comments where relevant and identifies the changes submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration. The Regulations will be renumbered upon approval by the General Assembly.

7. Amendments to the Rules will be promulgated by the Secretary-General following a decision on the Regulations by the General Assembly.

Annex

Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
Article I. Applicability		
1.1. These Regulations shall govern the planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation of all activities undertaken by the United Nations, irrespective of their source of financing.	None	
Article II. Instruments of integrated management		
2.1. Activities undertaken by the United Nations shall be submitted to an integrated management process reflected in the following instruments: (a) Medium-term plans; (b) Programme budgets; (c) Reports on programme performance; (d) Evaluation reports. Each of these instruments corresponds to one phase in a programme-planning cycle and, consequently, shall serve as a framework for the subsequent phases.	None	
2.2. The planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation cycle shall form an integral part of the general policy-making and management process of the Organization. The instruments referred to in regulation 2.1 above shall be used to ensure that activities are coordinated and that available resources are utilized according to legislative intent and in the most effective and economic manner.	None	
Article III. Planning, programming and budgeting process		
3.1. Planning, programming and budgeting process	None	
1. The planning, programming and budgeting process shall be governed, *inter alia*, by the following principles: (a) Strict adherence to the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Articles 17 and 18 thereof; (b) Full respect for the prerogatives of the principal organs of the United Nations with respect to the planning, programming and budgeting process; (c) Full respect for the authority and the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization;		

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
(d) Recognition of the need for Member States to participate in the budgetary preparation from its early stages and throughout the process.		
2. The process for the formulation of the medium-term plan shall include: (a) Full implementation of these regulations, as they pertain to the medium-term plan; (b) Submission of the introduction to the medium-term plan, which constitutes an integral element in the planning process, to Member States for wide consultations; (c) Consultations in a systematic way regarding the major programmes in the plan with sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies in the United Nations; (d) Drawing up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, of a calendar for such consultations.	The new medium-term plan does not provide for an introduction, but a perspective is provided, as indicated against article 4.7 below. Consequently, article 2 (b) should be deleted. The calendar for consultation on the plan is dependent on the time and frequency of meetings of the sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies as approved in the calendar of conferences of the United Nations. The drawing up of a separate calendar for the preparation of the plan is neither practical nor feasible.	The process for the formulation of the medium-term plan shall include: (a) Full implementation of these Regulations, as they pertain to the medium-term plan; (b) Consultations in a systematic way regarding the major programmes in the plan with sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies of the United Nations.
3.2. Budget process **A. Off-budget years** 1. The Secretary-General shall submit an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which shall contain an indication of the following: (a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium; (b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature; (c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget; (d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources. 2. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, shall consider the outline of the programme budget and submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly through its Fifth Committee 3. On the basis of a decision by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall prepare his proposed programme budget for the following biennium.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4. Throughout this process, the mandate and functions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall be fully respected. The Advisory Committee shall consider the outline of the programme budget in accordance with its terms of reference.		
B. Budget years 5. The Secretary-General shall submit his proposed programme budget to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in accordance with the existing procedures. 6. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and shall submit their conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through its Fifth Committee, for the final approval of the programme budget. 7. The programme budget shall include expenditures related to political activities of a "perennial" character whose mandates are renewed annually, together with their related conference costs.	None Application of this provision has appeared to be partial.	
Article 4. Medium-term plan 4.1. A medium-term plan shall be proposed by the Secretary-General. 4.2. The medium-term plan shall be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies shall be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. It shall reflect Member States' priorities as set out in legislation adopted by functional and regional intergovernmental bodies within their spheres of competence and by the General Assembly, on advice from the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In this context, subsidiary intergovernmental and expert bodies should, accordingly, refrain from making recommendations on the relative priorities of the major programmes as outlined in the medium-term plan, and should instead propose, through the Committee, the relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence. The medium-term plan shall clearly identify new activities.	None The concept of major programmes is no longer valid under the new medium-term plan format, which consists of programmes, equivalent to a department, office or regional commission, and subprogrammes, which equate with a division or a significant organizational entity within a department, office or regional commission. Consequently, the stipulation that intergovernmental and expert bodies should, accordingly, refrain from making recommendations on the relative priorities of the major programmes as outlined in the medium-term plan, and should instead propose, through the Committee, the relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence is redundant. The new medium-term plan focuses on objectives and the means to achieve them rather than on detailed descriptions of activities and outputs. Consequently, the plan does not identify activities per se. The word "activities" in the last sentence of the regulation should be replaced with "priority areas".	The medium-term plan shall be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies shall be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. It shall reflect Member States' priorities as set out in legislation adopted by functional and regional intergovernmental bodies within their spheres of competence and by the General Assembly, on advice from the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The medium-term plan shall clearly identify new priority areas.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.3. After adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which: (a) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in the plan period; (b) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used; (c) Gives an indicative estimate of the necessary resources.	The inclusion of financial data was envisaged as a means of informing Member States of the probable level of resources during the plan period. The provision of indicative estimates of necessary resources in the context of the medium-term plan has not yielded meaningful results. It is not practical or feasible to derive realistic and accurate estimates of resources so far in advance. Its value was questioned by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The General Assembly has since introduced the outline, which requires the Secretary-General to provide a preliminary estimate of resources in off-budget years (see regulation 3.2). Paragraph (c) of regulation 4.3 should be deleted.	After adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which: (a) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in the plan period; (b) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used.
4.4. The medium-term plan shall serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets within the period covered by the plan.	None	
4.5. The plan shall cover all activities, substantive and servicing, including those to be financed partially or fully from extrabudgetary resources.	None	
4.6. The plan shall be presented by programme and objective, and not by organizational unit. It shall emphasize the description of objectives and strategies; the presentation and format of the analysis provided therein shall vary according to the type and nature of activities; to this end a distinction shall be made between substantive and servicing activities; objectives shall be time-limited as far as possible, and the plan shall be objective-based in all programmes where that is feasible. The medium-term plan shall identify: (a) Major programmes, consisting of all activities conducted in a sector; (b) Programmes, consisting, within a major programme, of all activities in a sector which are under the responsibility of a distinct organizational unit, normally at the division level; (c) Subprogrammes, consisting, within a programme, of all activities that are directed at the accomplishment of one medium-term objective or several closely related objectives.	The basic feature of the new format of the plan is that there is congruence between the programmes of the plan and the organizational structure of the Secretariat. The concept of a major programme is no longer valid. What was a programme under the regulation is now a subprogramme, and the concept of a subprogramme under the current regulation has been superseded.	The plan shall be presented by programme and subprogramme. There shall be congruence between the programmatic and organizational structure of the Secretariat. Each programme will contain a narrative that will identify the mandates that provide overall direction for the programme. Each subprogramme shall contain a narrative, which should reflect all mandated activities and identify objectives and expected results to be achieved during the plan period.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.7. The plan shall be preceded by an introduction, which will constitute a key integral element in the planning process and shall: (a) Highlight in a coordinated manner the policy orientation of the United Nations system; (b) Indicate the medium-term objectives and strategy and trends deduced from mandates which reflect priorities set by intergovernmental organizations; (c) Contain the Secretary-General's proposals on priorities.	In the new format, the introduction has been replaced by a perspective.	The plan shall be preceded by a perspective, which shall be presented according to the following structure: (a) Persistent problems. These would be derived from an analysis of the long-standing problems that the Organization would continue to address; (b) Emerging trends. These would be derived from an analysis of the current situation; (c) Identification of challenges. This would address the old and new issues faced by the international community, based on the persistent problems and emerging trends; (d) Role of the Organization. This would identify the contributions that the Organization could make in addressing the persistent problems, the emerging trends and the existing, as well as new, challenges; (e) Directions to be pursued. This would outline, in broad terms, the courses of action that would need to be taken and the priority areas to be addressed.
4.8. In order to facilitate the planning process, the Secretary-General shall request the executive heads of the voluntary funds to indicate the likely future volume of extrabudgetary funds, sufficiently in advance for this information to be taken into consideration in the preparation of the medium-term plan.	In light of the observations made with respect to regulation 4.3, this should be deleted.	Delete
4.9. The medium-term plan shall cover a six-year period and be submitted to the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget covering the first biennium of the plan period.	The period of the new plan is 4 years. The text should be amended accordingly.	The medium-term plan shall cover a four-year period and be submitted to the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget covering the first biennium of the plan period.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.10. Sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs shall refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan, unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises, as determined by the General Assembly.	The medium-term plan does not include a list of activities. In addition, the budget process established under resolution 41/213 envisages a contingency fund for accommodating additional mandates (see regulation 3.2 C).	Delete
4.11. The medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes; revisions to the plan shall be considered by the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget providing for implementation of the changes. The proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.	None	
4.12. The chapters of the proposed medium-term plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings prior to their review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in accordance with their terms of reference.	The word "chapters" should be replaced with "programmes and subprogrammes".	The programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed medium-term plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings prior to their review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in accordance with their terms of reference.
4.13. The participation of sectoral, functional and regional organs in the formulation of the plan shall be achieved by means of an appropriate preparation period. To that end, the Secretary-General shall provide proposals for the coordination of their calendars of meetings. The activities in the medium-term plan shall be coordinated with those of the concerned specialized agencies through prior consultations.	In light of the comments made under regulation 3.1, this regulation should be amended.	The participation of sectoral, functional and regional organs in the formulation of the plan shall be achieved by means of an appropriate preparation period. The activities in the medium-term plan shall be coordinated with those of the concerned specialized agencies through prior consultations.
4.14. The General Assembly shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in the light of the comments and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Assembly shall decide to accept, curtail, reformulate or reject each of the subprogrammes proposed in the plan.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.15. The establishment of priorities among both substantive programmes and common services shall form an integral part of the general planning and management process without prejudice to arrangements and procedures now in force or to the specific character of servicing activities. Such priorities shall be based on the importance of the objective to Member States, the Organization's capacity to achieve it and the real effectiveness and usefulness of the results.	None	
4.16. Intergovernmental and expert bodies shall, when reviewing the relevant chapters of the proposed medium-term plan, recommend priorities among subprogrammes in their field of competence. They shall refrain from making recommendations on priority among major programmes. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, when making recommendations, and the Secretary-General, when making proposals on programme priorities, shall take into account the views of the above-mentioned bodies.	Under the previous plan structure, all subprogrammes within a programme were, as a rule, governed by one functional or sectoral body. Within the previous programme for statistics, for instance, priorities were designated for subprogrammes because it was possible to determine which elements at the subprogramme level within the statistics programme could be accorded priority. Under the new plan structure, subprogrammes within a programme relate in many instances to more than one functional or sectoral body. Statistics, for example, now appears as a subprogramme, as does population, each linked to separate functional commissions but falling within a programme. The designation of priority among subprogrammes within a programme could not be achieved in the absence of overall direction from a single functional or sectoral body. In the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, the Secretary-General did not therefore propose, and the General Assembly did not establish, priority among subprogrammes. This regulation should be deleted.	Delete
4.17. On the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals and of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the General Assembly shall designate, among the subprogrammes it accepts, those which are of the highest and lowest priority.	This regulation should be deleted for the same reason as the previous one.	Delete
4.18. Priorities, as determined by the General Assembly, in the medium-term plan shall guide the allocation of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources in the subsequent programme budgets. After the medium-term plan has been adopted by the Assembly, the Secretary-General shall bring the decisions on priorities to the attention of Member States and the governing boards of the voluntary funds.	None	None

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
Article V. Programme aspects of the budget		
5.1. The medium-term plan as approved and revised by the General Assembly shall serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget. In order to facilitate this relationship, the programme budget shall have financial information corresponding to at least one of the three programming levels in the medium-term plan.	In view of the congruence between the programmatic and organizational structures of the Organization, the programme budget will contain financial information at both the programme and subprogramme levels.	The medium-term plan as approved and revised by the General Assembly shall serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget. In order to facilitate this relationship, the programme budget shall have financial information at the programme and subprogramme levels.
5.2. The programme proposals in the budget shall aim at implementing the strategy in the plan and, therefore, shall be derived from its strategy statements. Programme proposals that are not derived from the plan strategies shall be submitted only as a result of legislation passed subsequent to the adoption of the plan or its last revision.	The new format of the plan focuses on achieving objectives. The text of the regulation should be amended to reflect this.	The programme proposals in the budget shall aim at achieving the objectives established in the plan.
5.3. In the proposed programme budget, requested resources shall be justified in terms of the requirements of output delivery. The highest-priority subprogrammes, as decided by the General Assembly, shall have first claim on resources, if budgetary needs are demonstrated, and, if possible, through redeployment in the event that low-priority activities are curtailed or terminated by intergovernmental decision.	In light of the comments made under regulation 4.16, the second sentence of this regulation should be deleted.	In the proposed programme budget, requested resources shall be justified in terms of the requirements of output delivery.
5.4. The proposed programme budget shall be divided into parts, sections and programmes. Programme narratives shall set out subprogrammes, programme elements, output and users. The proposed programme budget shall be preceded by a statement explaining the main changes made in the content of the programme and the volume of resources allocated to them in relation to the previous biennium and indicating the progress envisaged for all activities with time-limited objectives in implementing the plan. The proposed programme budget shall be accompanied by such information, annexes and explanatory statements as may be requested by or on behalf of the General Assembly and such further annexes or statements as the Secretary-General may deem necessary and useful.	Since the 1992-1993 budget, the presentation of outputs in terms of programme elements has been discontinued. In addition, the plan does not have time-limited objectives. The regulation should be amended accordingly.	The proposed programme budget shall be divided into parts, sections and programmes. Programme narratives shall set out subprogrammes and outputs. The proposed programme budget shall be preceded by a statement explaining the main changes made in the content of the programme and the volume of resources allocated to them in relation to the previous biennium. The proposed programme budget shall be accompanied by such information, annexes and explanatory statements as may be requested by or on behalf of the General Assembly and such further annexes or statements as the Secretary-General may deem necessary and useful.
5.5. All activities for which resources are requested in the proposed programme budget shall be programmed.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
5.6. Within the proposed programme budget the Secretary-General shall provide the General Assembly with: (a) A list of programme elements and output included in the previous budgetary period which, in his judgement, can be discontinued and, as a consequence, have not been included in the proposed programme budget; (b) An identification within each programme of programme elements of high and low priority, each category representing approximately 10 per cent of the resources requested.	Since the 1992-1993 budget, the presentation of outputs in terms of programme elements has been discontinued. Outputs in a particular period may be of a non-recurrent nature and not meant to be repeated in the next budget period. The provision under 5.6 (a) should be changed from "programme elements and outputs included in the previous budgetary period" to "recurrent outputs". With regard to the identification of 10 per cent high and low priority programme elements, the Committee for Programme and Coordination questioned its usefulness at the level of output or activity in its report on the work of its thirty-fifth session and recommended that this be discontinued. This recommendation was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/228 of 23 December 1993.	Within the proposed programme budget the Secretary-General shall provide the General Assembly with a list of recurrent outputs included in the current programme budget which, in his judgement, can be discontinued and, as a consequence, have not been included in the proposed programme budget.
5.7. The Secretary-General shall provide the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary period.	None	
5.8. The Committee for Programme and Coordination shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals. It shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of its recommendations. The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall be communicated simultaneously to the Economic and Social Council and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Advisory Committee shall receive the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and study the statement by the Secretary-General. The reports of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on each section of the proposed programme budget shall be considered simultaneously by the General Assembly.	None	
5.9. No Council, Commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account or a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
VI. Monitoring of programme performance		
6.1. The Secretary-General shall monitor the delivery of output scheduled in the approved programme budget through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period.	None	
6.2. An entire subprogramme shall not be reformulated nor a new programme introduced in the programme budget without the prior approval of an intergovernmental body and the General Assembly. The Secretary-General may make such proposals for review by the relevant intergovernmental body if he considers that circumstances so warrant.	None	
6.3. The Secretary-General shall transmit the biennial programme performance report to all Member States by the end of the first quarter following the completion of the biennial budget period.	None	
VII. Evaluation		
7.1. The objective of evaluation is: (a) To determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Organization's activities in relation to their objectives; (b) To enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflections, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the main programmes of the Organization by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives.	None	
7.2. All activities programmed shall be evaluated over a fixed time period. An evaluation programme as well as a timetable for intergovernmental review of evaluation studies shall be proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly at the same time as the proposed medium-term plan.	The phrase "by the Secretary-General" should be modified to bring it into conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/218 B, para. 5 (e) (i). In addition, the practice has been for the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider a new timetable as the need arises.	All activities programmed shall be evaluated over a fixed time period. An evaluation programme as well as a timetable for intergovernmental review of evaluation studies shall be proposed by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services for transmittal by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
7.3. Evaluation shall be internal and/or external. The Secretary-General shall develop internal evaluation systems and seek the cooperation of Member States in the evaluation process, as appropriate. Evaluation methods shall be adapted to the nature of the programme being evaluated. The General Assembly shall invite such bodies as it sees fit, including the Joint Inspection Unit, to perform ad hoc external evaluations and to report on them.	None	
7.4. The findings of intergovernmental review of evaluations shall be reflected in subsequent programme design, delivery and policy directives. To this end, a brief report, summarizing the conclusions of the Secretary-General on all evaluation studies conducted in the established evaluation programme shall be submitted to the General Assembly at the same time as the text of the proposed medium-term plan.	The phrase "by the Secretary-General" should be modified to bring it into conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/218 B.	The findings of intergovernmental review of evaluations shall be reflected in subsequent programme design, delivery and policy directives. To this end, a brief report, summarizing the conclusions of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services on all evaluation studies conducted in the established evaluation programme shall be submitted to the General Assembly at the same time as the text of the proposed medium-term plan.